

PRIOR ART
FIG. 1

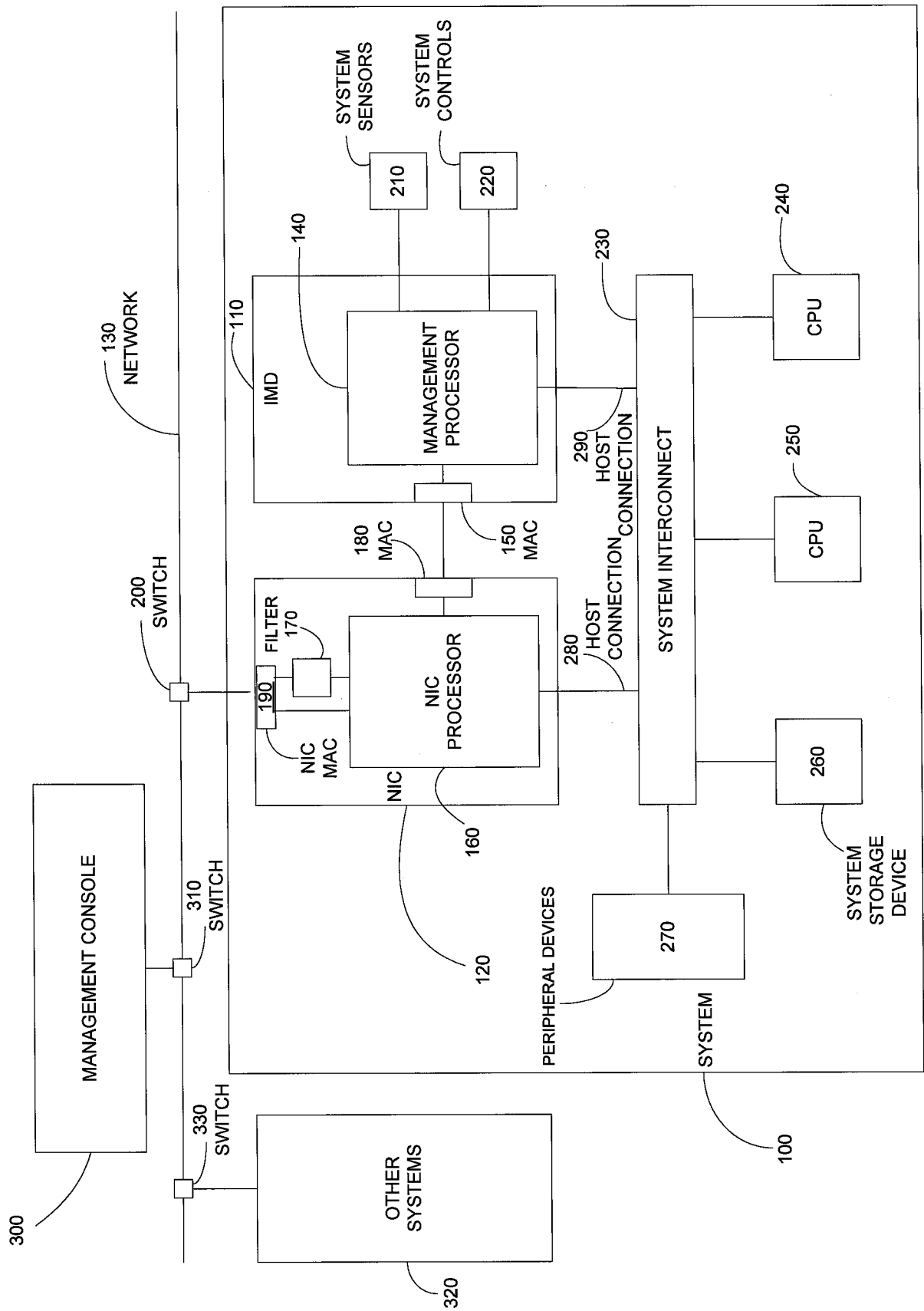


FIG. 2

The diagram illustrates a system 100 with multiple Network Interface Cards (NICs) connected to a network 130. The network 130 is represented by a horizontal line at the top. Three switches, labeled 200(1), 200(2), and 200(n), are connected to the network 130. Each switch is connected to a corresponding NIC. The NICs are labeled 120(1), 120(2), and 120(n). Each NIC contains a NIC processor, a filter, and three MACs: 190(1), 170(1), and 180(1) for NIC 120(1); 190(2), 170(2), and 180(2) for NIC 120(2); and 190(n), 170(n), and 180(n) for NIC 120(n). A management processor 140 is connected to the network 130 via an interface module 150. The system 100 is labeled at the bottom right.

FIG. 3